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Exports

A release from the Province of British Columbia's central statistical agency

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B.C. exports climbed 6.0% year-to-date to November 2013.

Lumber exports jumped 25.7% year-to-date compared to the first 11 months of 2012.

Energy product exports dipped 1.0% in the first 11 months of 2013.

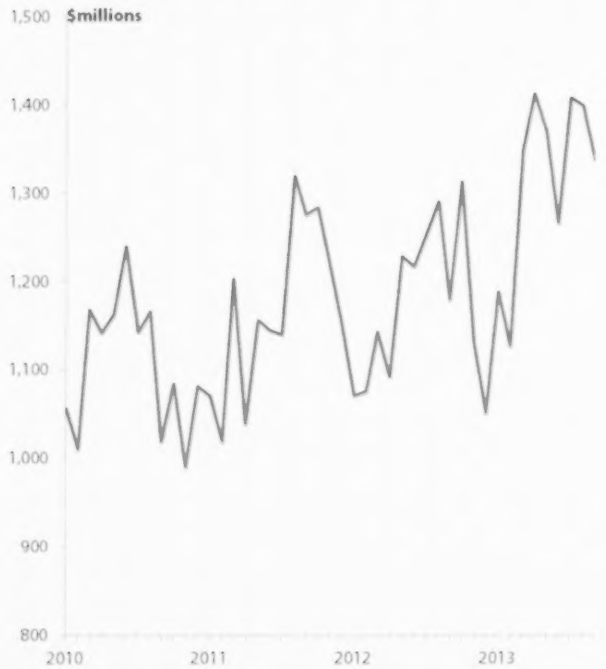
BY DESTINATION

The value of B.C. origin exports increased 6.0% over the first 11 months of 2013 compared to the same period a year earlier. Shipments to B.C.'s largest trading partners, the United States (+11.7%) and Mainland China (+17.6%), more than offset significant declines to other major trading partners, such as the European Union (-15.9%), Japan (-7.5%), South Korea (-9.5%), Taiwan (-5.8%) and Hong Kong (-13.5%).

BY COMMODITY

There was a 25.7% jump in exports of solid wood products in the January to November period of 2013 compared to the same 11 months in 2012. Shipments of all major solid wood product categories saw significant increases, including softwood lumber (+26.4%), softwood plywood and veneer (+28.3%), other panel products (+33.1%), logs (+37.7%) and selected value added wood products (+10.2%).

B.C.'S COMMODITY EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN 2013



Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

Elsewhere in the forest sector, pulp and paper exports have not fared nearly as well, slumping 4.7% year-to-date to November. Shipments of newsprint bucked the trend, rising 6.6%, but exports of pulp (-4.2%), other paper and paperboard (-9.1%) and other pulp and paper (-11.9%) all declined.

The value of B.C.'s exports of energy products slipped 1.0% from January to November 2013, compared to the same 11-month period a year earlier. The decline was due to a 17.7% drop in the value of coal shipments, as exports of natural gas (+33.1%), electricity (+2.1%) and other energy products (+62.1%) all increased in value. With respect to coal, the drop was the result of lower prices, as the quantity of coal shipped actually increased 9.2%. For electricity, the opposite was true. While the value of exports grew, the quantity of electricity transmitted across the border fell 40.3%.

There was strong growth in shipments of metallic mineral products (+12.8%), driven mainly by a 23.8% boost in exports of copper ores and concentrates. The increase in copper shipments more than offset declines in exports of unwrought aluminum (-12.7%) and molybdenum ores and concentrates (-23.4%).

There was a 10.4% rise in exports of agriculture and food other than fish. Shipments of vegetable oils (+58.9%) and vegetables (+20.0%) led the way. Exports of fish products climbed 4.6%.

Other product groups with strong export growth included machinery and equipment (+4.4%) and apparel and accessories (+12.5%). There were significant declines in exports of fabricated metal products (-4.3%) and chemicals and chemical products (-9.7%).

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED EXPORTS

Seasonal adjustment provides a means of making month-to-month comparisons by removing the periodic seasonal fluctuations that occur. Variations from normal seasonal patterns are revealed in the seasonally adjusted series.

The value of B.C.'s commodity exports rose 1.1% in November as strong growth in shipments of metal and non-metallic mineral products (+31.7%), farm, fishing and intermediate food products (+19.9%) and consumer goods (+10.7%) more than offset substantial declines in exports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals (-21.4%) and energy products (-3.5%).

All the growth was in shipments to the United States as exports to the rest of the world fell 1.1%, largely due to a drop of 25.8% in shipments of metal ores and non-metallic minerals and a 5.8% decline in exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials. On the other hand, forest product shipments to the U.S. climbed 12.7%, partially driving the overall 3.7% boost in B.C. exports to the United States. Metal and non-metallic mineral exports were also a key contributor to overall growth, with an increase of 29.7% in November.

Click here to visit the exports and imports page on the BC Stats website.

DID YOU KNOW?

The growth in B.C.'s exports year-to-date to November (+6.0%) is almost double the national rate (+3.1%) and trails only Manitoba (+11.1%), Nova Scotia (+9.2%) and Alberta (+6.4%).